THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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Hypnotic Throat Singers of Tuva to perform on July 16 at the Cleveland Museum of Art

"It is unfamiliar yet very accessible, an other worldly but deeply spiritual music that is rooted in the sounds of nature." – The Chicago Tribune

CLEVELAND (June 24, 2004) — Known for their unique musical technique of "xöömei" or throat–singing, **Huun-Huur-Tu** will perform their vast repertoire of traditional Tuvan music at the **Cleveland Museum of Art's Gartner Auditorium** on, **Friday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m.** This concert is presented as part of the **Carnevale World Music and Dance Series**.

Tickets are available for $24 and $22, CMA members $21 and $19, by calling (216) 421-7350 or 1-888-CMA-0033 or buying online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

Huun–Huur–Tu, veterans of concert and festival performances in North America and nearly every country in Europe, has emerged as the foremost international representative of Tuva's remarkable musical culture. The group is comprised of four vocalists/musicians using a musical technique known as xöömei or throat-singing. This unique style, also known as overtone-singing, consists of a single vocalist simultaneously producing two distinct pitches: a fundamental note and, high above it, a series of articulated harmonies that are sequenced into melodies and manipulated with extreme virtuosity in several canonical styles.

The quartet was founded as a means of concentrating on the presentation of traditional songs of their homeland. While they devote themselves to the preservation of these songs, their concerts always demonstrate the significance of combining tradition and innovation.

The small region of Tuva, a sparsely settled area of grasslands, borders forests and mountain ridges 2,500 miles east of Moscow and north of Mongolia. Tuva produces musicians who transform the sounds of the natural world into music through imitation. Huun–Huur–Tu does so by transporting the audience to a musical landscape that's spine–tinglingly beautiful, haunting and hypnotic.

"These artists create sonic 'maps' of physical landscapes which are expressed in songs, throat–singing, whistling, or any other type of vocal production," says Theodore Levin, the first American to do ethnographic fieldwork in Tuva. "For the Tuvans, one of the purposes of music seems to be to offer detailed and concrete descriptions of topography. In short, Tuvan music is not abstract like most western music, but radically representational, the product of a cult of imitation that ties it to an animistic understanding of the world."

(more)

Huun–Huur–Tu released their first album, *60 Horses in My Herd: Old Songs and Tunes of Tuva*, in 1993. Since then, their popularity has significantly increased resulting in the release of several more albums including *Live 1*, *Live 2* and *Where Young Grass Grows*. The group has also collaborated with such musicians as Frank Zappa, Ry Cooder and the Chieftains.

The next performance in the Carnevale series will feature new Brazilian music by **Cibelle, Friday, July 23,7:30 p.m. in the Museum's Gartner Auditorium**. Winner of the BBC Radio award in 2004 for best new voice, Cibelle has received critical and popular acclaim throughout Europe for her captivating performances. Tickets are available for $24 and $22, CMA members $21 and $19 by calling (216) 421-7350 or 1-888-CMA-0033 or buying online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

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The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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